

**To:** Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]  
**From:** dan cappello  
**Sent:** Sat 2/25/2017 10:54:49 AM  
**Subject:** This is our moment to help Appalachian communities at risk [WARNING: SPF validation failed]

Dear Mr. President and staff,

Mountaintop removal coal mining continues to encroach on communities across central Appalachia. These communities are experiencing higher poverty rates, higher levels of water pollution, and higher rates of health impacts because of mountaintop removal. This is the Trump administration's moment to change the story. This is the Trump administration's moment to end mountaintop removal coal mining and create a bright, sustainable future for Appalachia.

Please end the tragedy of mountaintop removal and help bring new hope and prosperity to Appalachian mining communities by doing these four things:

- 1) Stop mountaintop removal: Immediately end permitting of new mountaintop removal mines.
- 2) Enforce the law: The coal industry has routinely ignored the Clean Water Act and the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act, while state agencies that enforce those laws have turned a blind eye. Your agencies must increase oversight of the permitting and enforcement programs in Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia to ensure they protect public health and adhere to the law, or else rescind those states' primacy to administer their own mine and water permitting programs.
- 3) Issue a conductivity rule: We need federal water quality standards for conductivity, not merely guidance or recommended criteria, so that state regulators will provide the protections guaranteed by the Clean Water Act and by SMCRA. Without this rule, stream health will continue to be compromised and species will continue to be extirpated until our streams are simply dead.
- 4) Continue to support a just transition for mining communities: Instruct the Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Fund to invest in entrepreneurs, infrastructure and sustainable development in Appalachia, and work with Congress to increase Abandoned Mine Land funds for Appalachian states and ensure the fund won't expire in 2021.

Sincerely,

dan cappello

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lawrence, PA 15055

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